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November 16, 2007

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-8-5

SUBJECT: 2008 EQIP Payment Schedule and Program Policy.

Purpose: To Distribute the 2008 EQIP Payment Schedule and Program Policy.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2008

The 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Payment Schedule is attached and available for developing cost estimates during the ranking process for EQIP applications. A copy of the payment schedule formatted for use in Toolkit will be sent via email to all field office employees. The payment schedule is loaded into ProTracts.

NRCS is instituting the use of payment schedules to achieve four primary objectives; First, in order to comply with international treaties and IRS regulations, NRCS will use the new cost data to document the direct costs and income losses associated with the implementation of conservation practices. Second, NRCS is attempting to streamline contracting and contract payment processes to reduce the time these activities require and increase the time available for DCs and planners to provide technical assistance to producers. Third, use of payment schedules eliminates uncertainty of actual payments to producers. This enables prospective conservation program participants to make decisions as to whether or not they can afford to implement specific conservation practices. This makes it possible for them to enroll in conservation programs with full confidence that they will be able to fulfill contract obligations. Finally, the payment schedule creates a clear distinction between FOTG Section I cost data – used for planning purposes- and program payment schedules- used for contracting purposes. This eliminates the problem of both producers and NRCS staff using “cost” lists, which were program payment lists, to estimate costs of applying conservation practices, a purpose for which cost lists were not intended.

The notes column of the payment schedule serves as a guide to help planners decide whether to include a practice in the contract or leave it out. Scenario descriptions will be forthcoming following the Thanksgiving holiday. Questions of practice eligibility for payment should be directed to your supervisor or the Program staff. Payment for irrigation practices on land which has not been irrigated 2 of the last 5 years is not allowed by EQIP rules. EQIP funds may not be expended for practices required to meet HEL/WC eligibility.



If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Herbert Andrick, ASTC-Programs at (304) 284-7560.

KEVIN WICKEY
State Conservationist

Attachment: 2008 EQIP payment schedule

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